

I am disturbed by Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, there is real danger that partisan opinions of the owner(s) will replace fair and balanced presentations with their own views in an attempt to unfairly sway voters. This close to the election, it is an abuse of the public trust to air such a one-sided program without providing equal time or opportunity for the other side's views to be heard.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.